



spatterdock

Nuphar luteum

Kingdom: Plantae
Division/Phylum: Anthophyta - flowering plants

Features

Spatterdock is an aquatic, perennial herb with thick underground stems. Its smooth, leathery leaves are oval with a heart-shaped base and may be up to 15 inches long. The yellow flowers are solitary on stalks that grow above the water's surface. They may be two inches across. The oval-shaped, leathery fruits are up to two inches long.

Natural History

Also known as yellow waterlily, spatterdock grows in standing water in lakes, ponds, and marshes, mainly in the northern part of the Des Moines Lobe. It flowers May through September. Deer and muskrats may eat the stems and leaves; waterfowl eat the seeds. It is not found in the southwest part of the state and is uncommon elsewhere.

Habitats

natural lakes and prairie marshes; constructed lakes, ponds, and reservoirs

Iowa Status

uncommon; native

Iowa Range

scattered throughout Iowa in suitable habitats

Bibliography

Iowa Department of Natural Resources. 2001.
Biodiversity of Iowa: Aquatic Habitats CD-ROM.